



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
December 16, 2014
9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. Commissioners Patricia Stankevicius, Stephen Penny and Michael Ajello were also present. Commissioner Salvatore Bramante was present via teleconference. Agency staff was also present.

Commissioner Castagno added to the agenda Resolutions Commending Retiring Staff on their Service with the SEEC

Ia. Resolutions Commending Retiring Staff on their Service with the SEEC

Retiring Elections Officer Paige Adams was thanked for her 21 years of state service and contributions to the SEEC. A resolution was read by Commissioner Castagno.

Retiring Elections Officer Nancy Staniewicz was thanked for her 33 years of state service and contributions to the SEEC. A resolution was read by Commissioner Castagno.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2014

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2014 regular meeting and was approved by a vote 4-0-1 vote. Commissioner Stankevicius abstained from voting.

III. Administrative Reports

Mr. Brandi updated as to the status of operations. In terms of personnel, SEEC is now up to 5 vacancies. SEEC has assurances that the refills are being processed and are working diligently to re-fill our vacancies of IT Manager I, Fiscal Administrative Officer, Accounts Examiner and now our two Elections Officers.

Mr. Brandi reported that budget wise, SEEC is on target. We received a request, which was forwarded to all the Commissioners, from the Governor for a one percent voluntary reduction. Commission staff reviewed our budget situation and sent a letter to OPM and the Governor agreeing to the one percent rescission which was approximately \$34,000 out of SEEC's operating budget. We were able to achieve the

necessary savings through our vacancies. The balance of the budget for the fiscal year looks to be in good shape.

Mr. Brandi advised that as for the various divisions, the enforcement division has been quite active as the docket continues to grow and is trying to process these cases as quickly as possible. The enforcement docket right now is approximately 180 cases.

Mr. Brandi updated that the compliance team is going through the post-election review and looking at the various reports that need to be generated for the Commission as well as the Legislature and the Governor. SEEC is looking at a variety of topics including the success of the program and participation rates. The CEP had a very successful year, issuing a total of 287 grants totaling 33.3 million dollars and we had one hundred percent participation at the statewide level and over eighty percent of the general assembly.

Mr. Brandi reported that we are also looking at generating reports relating to independent expenditures that were made during this election season as well as organizational expenditures in order to get a full picture of what campaign spending was during the 2014 election.

Mr. Brandi updated that SEEC will also be doing its' standard survey of all treasurers and asking more questions of how to improve processes and become even better at customer service than we are now.

Mr. Brandi advised that the audit unit is moving forward. The lottery has been completed and districts have been selected for audit. All the statewide campaigns will be audited. SEEC's audit staff will move forward over the next few months to compile the necessary documentation and will be working on their analysis of those campaigns.

Mr. Brandi reported that SEEC is also working with the IT and audit units to find more ways to move more campaigns, especially PAC's and Town Committees, into electronic filings to move away from paper filings as much as possible. By doing this, it is much more efficient for campaigns and for SEEC. Over ninety-two percent of candidate committees use eCRIS.

1. Memorandum regarding: A resolution to approve the proposed 2015 SEEC Regular Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the 2015 SEEC Regular Meeting Schedule. So voted by a 5-0 vote.

2. Memorandum regarding: SEEC Legislative Proposals 2015

No action was taken.

IV. Consideration of Hearing Officer's Reports

1. In the Matter of a Referral by a SEEC Elections Officer
File No. 2014-062NF
Hearing Officer: Michael J. Brandi
Respondent: Regina V. Roundtree
Prosecutor: Patrick J. Lamb

Hearing Officer Brandi summarized the above referenced report in File No. 2014-062NF. He recommended adoption of the Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Final Decision in File No. 2014-062NF. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Final Decision is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Danbury Municipal Clerk
File No. 2014-069MNF
Hearing Officer: Michael J. Brandi
Respondent: Thomas William McAllister
Prosecutor: Patrick J. Lamb

Hearing Officer Brandi summarized the above referenced report in File No. 2014-069MNF. He recommended adoption of the Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Final Decision in File No. 2014-069MNF. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Final Decision is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

V. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Julie Beaman, Hartford
File No. 2013-158
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondents: Olga Vazquez, Democratic Registrar
of Voters and Brittney S. Hall
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-158. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-158. So voted by a vote 4-0-1 with Commissioner Bramante abstaining. The Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Paul C. Giancesini, et al, Terryville
File No. 2013-162

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

Barbara K. Rockwell, Plymouth
Town Clerk

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-162. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-162. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Patrick S. Dwyer, Bridgewater
File No. 2014-049

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondents:

Region 12 Board of Education and
Patricia Cosentino

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-049. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-049. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Edward M. Snider, Philadelphia
File No. 2014-019
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Edward M. Snider, Chairman of
Comcast Spectacor
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-019. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-019 upon receipt in ten days. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available, upon receipt, on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In re: Referral by the Trumbull Registrars of Voters, Trumbull
File No. 2014-065
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents: Roberto Nicolia and Jill Nicolia
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-065. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-065 upon receipt in ten days. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available, upon receipt, on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Anne Pappas, Bridgeport
File No. 2014-068
Proposed Finding & Conclusions
Respondent: Jonathan Pelto
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-068. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-068. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Karen A. Murphy, Stamford
File No. 2013-165

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:	Ron Molloy and Lucy Correlli
Attorney:	Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator:	Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-165. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2013-165. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Consent Order & Agreement are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Donna Hemmann, Wethersfield
File No. 2014-058

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:	Katherine Breslin
Attorney:	Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-058. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-058. So voted by a vote 5-0. The Consent Order & Agreement are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

VI. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300*

(Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 10:57 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioners Castagno, Bramante, Ajello and Penny were present. Staff members present were Scott Branfuhr, Ryan Burns, Joshua Foley, Gilberto Oyola, Patrick Lamb, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, Marianne Sadowski, Shannon Kief, Michael Brandi, Evelyn Gratacos and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 12:10 P.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Following a short recess the Commission took the following action:

1. *In re*. Grant Validation Investigation

File No. 2014-017

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joel Gonzalez, Bridgeport

File No. 2014-042

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joel Gonzalez, Bridgeport

File No. 2014-044

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

4. Pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, a Request for a Finding of Reason to Believe a Violation of General Statutes § 9-604 Has Been Committed

Attorney:

Patrick J. Lamb

Pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Commission finds that it has reason to believe that the named respondents violated the election laws as described.

File No. 2014-085CNF Respondent Andrew Mouradian for the Candidacy for State Representative, 146th Assembly District, Republican Party.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to find that it has reason to believe that the above named respondent violated the election laws as described. So voted by a vote 5-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Karen A. Murphy & Michael J. Telesca, et al
File No. 2013-127

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

6. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and Seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to ten (10) complaints in File Nos.: 2014-157, 2014-158, 2014-159, 2014-160, 2014-161, 2014-168, 2014-169, 2014-170, 2014-171 and 2014-173. So voted by a vote 5-0.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and Seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint in File No.: 2014-162. So voted by a 4-0-1 vote with Commissioner Bramante abstaining.

7. Supplemental materials from the November 2014 regular meeting

No action was taken.

8. Consideration of ***Draft Declaratory Ruling 2015-01: Regarding the use of Signs to Communicate the Time Date and Location of Referendum.***

Ms. Kief recommended the Commission set an alternative schedule for consideration of the proposed declaratory ruling at this time for further proceedings to be had during the first week of January with respect to considering drafts to put out for comment.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to accept recommendation of counsel on draft Declaratory Ruling 2015-01. So voted by a 5-0 vote.

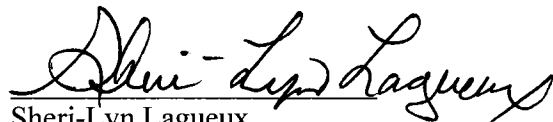
VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

Unless otherwise noted, all action taken has been taken in section VI.

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 12:15 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 13th day of January, 2015 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Anthony J. Castagno
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is January 13, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.